

Remarks

The claims were rejected as being obvious from or disclosed by U.S. Patent 6,258,577 to Goodrich. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 39 and 61 have been amended to specify a wavelength approximately between about 250 to about 260 nm. This is supported in applicant's specification at page 2, lines 9-10, where it says "UV light with a wavelength of approximately between about 250 to about 260 nm provides the highest germicidal effectiveness."

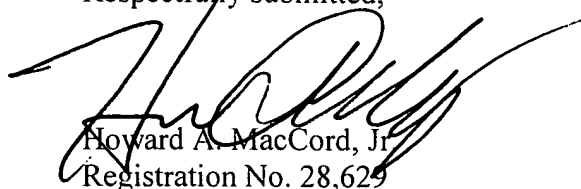
The wavelength that Goodrich uses differs from applicant's. Goodrich says: "Preferably the light source is a fluorescent or luminescent source providing light of about 300 nm to about 700 nm, and more preferably about 340 nm to about 650 nm of radiation." (column 7, lines 24-28). Thus applicant's longest wavelength is considerably shorter the shortest wavelength specified by Goodrich.

The office action required new drawings to show "portal optics." However, these are shown as item 32 on Figure 1 and referred to at page 5, line 6 of the specification, so this requirement is respectfully traversed.

The office action noted problems with claims 16 and 61, which have been addressed by appropriate amendments.

Accordingly, it is believed this application is now in condition for allowance, and same is earnestly solicited. Should any small matter remain requiring resolution, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,



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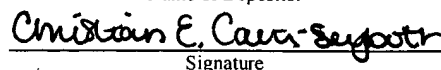
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